

Application No. 10/825,456

Docket No.: 65042-0443

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to:

FIG. 4, reference number 43 has been amended to be 33;

FIG. 6, reference number 70 has been deleted;

FIG. 9, reference number 30 has been amended to be 30';

FIG. 12, reference number 20 has been amended to be 20';

FIG. 13, reference number 32 has been amended to be 32'; and

FIG. 14, reference number 30 has been amended to be 30'.

Attachment: Replacement sheet  
Annotated sheet showing changes

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Application No. 10/825,456

Docket No.: 65042-0443

**REMARKS**

Applicants have reviewed the detailed Office Action mailed 09/01/2005 and thank Examiner Gutman for a detailed review and indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 7, 8, 14, 20, and 21. Claims 1, 3 – 6, 9 – 13, 16 – 19, and 22 were rejected. Claim 15 has been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species. Claims 2, 10, 16, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Pursuant to the Examiners indication of allowable subject matter: claim 1 has been amended to include the key limitation of claim 2; claim 8 has been amended to include the key limitations of claim 1; claim 18 has been amended to include the key limitations of claim 20; and claims 3, 4, 6, 11, and 12 have been amended to address informalities described above. Thus, claims 1, 3 – 9, 11 – 15, 17 – 19, and 21 – 22 will be pending upon entry of this amendment. Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

**I. Amendments to Claims**

As stated above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the key limitations of claim 2; dependent claim 8 has been amended to include the key limitations of independent claim 1; independent claim 18 has been amended to include the key limitations of dependent claim 20. Thus, dependent claims 3 – 7, 9, 11 – 15, and 17 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable independent claim 1. Dependent claims 19, 21, and 22 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable independent claim 18. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**II. Amendments to Drawings**

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner requested that Applicants show the external component of claim 10 and the lever, nut, and wheel of claim 16. Applicants canceled claims 10 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. The objection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants have also amended FIGS. 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, and 14. The corrections have been made as described above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/825,456

Docket No.: 65042-0443

**III. Amendments to the Specification**

The Examiner has objected to several informalities and appropriate correction was requested. The objection is respectfully traversed.

The correction has been made as described above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.


**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper are identified in the accompanying transmittal. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC.

Dated: October 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael B. Stewart

Registration No.: 36,018

RADER, FISHMAN &amp; GRAUER PLLC

39533 Woodward Avenue

Suite 140

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304

(248) 594-0633

Attorney for Applicants

Attachments

R0312992

Application No. 10/825,456

Docket No.: 65042-0443

**ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES**

First Named Inventor: Michael P. Cunningham, et al.  
Title: SECUREMENT MECHANISM INCLUDING TOP LOADING TIE  
DOWN CLEAT ASSEMBLY AND LOCKING MEMBER

Atty. Docket No.: 65042-0443  
Express Mail No.: EV 223961700 US

5/14

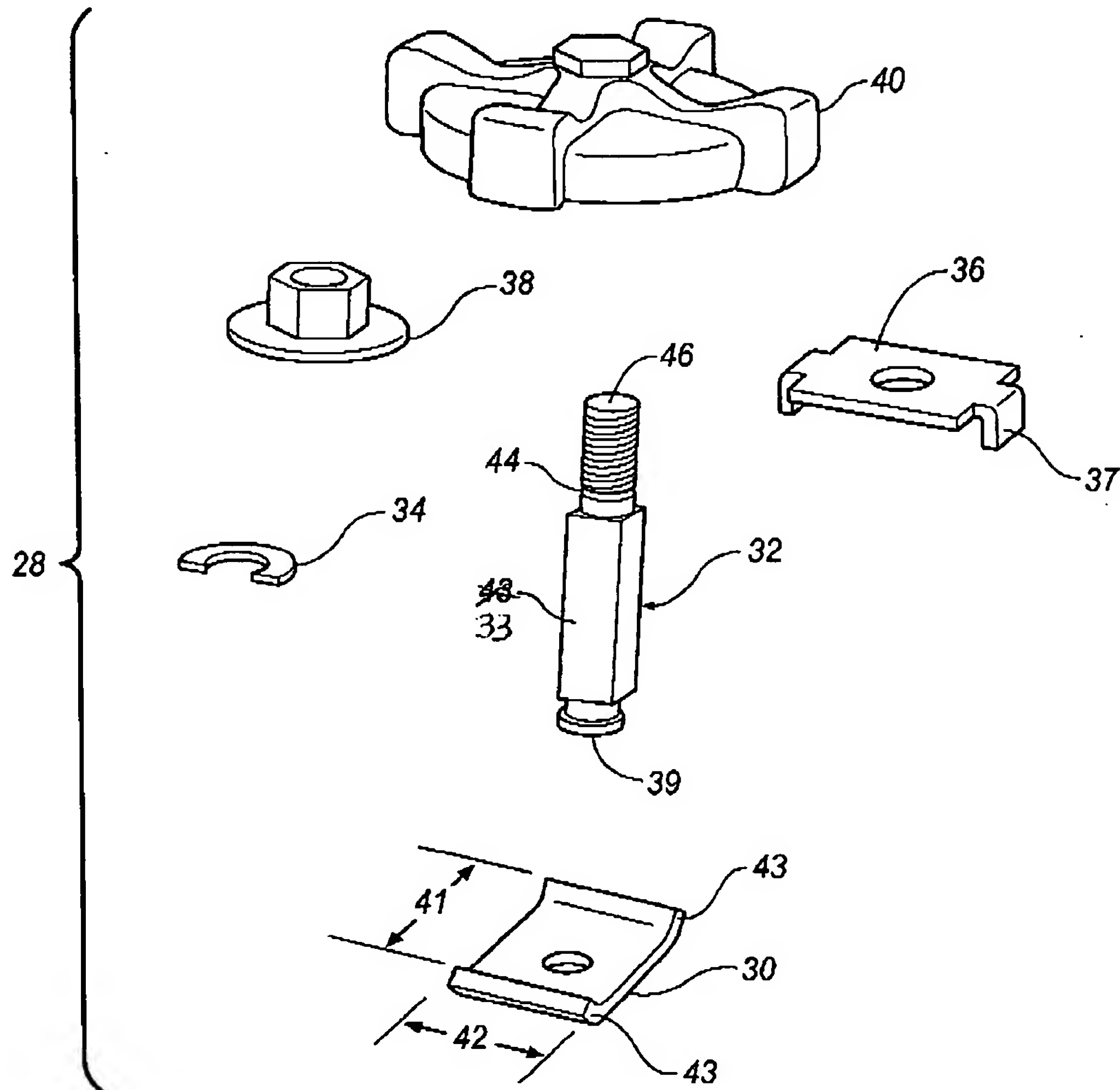


FIG. 4



First Named Inventor: Michael P. Cunningham, et al.  
 Title: SECUREMENT MECHANISM INCLUDING TOP LOADING TIE  
 DOWN CLEAT ASSEMBLY AND LOCKING MEMBER

Atty. Docket No.: 65042-0443  
 Express Mail No.: EV 223961700 US

10/14

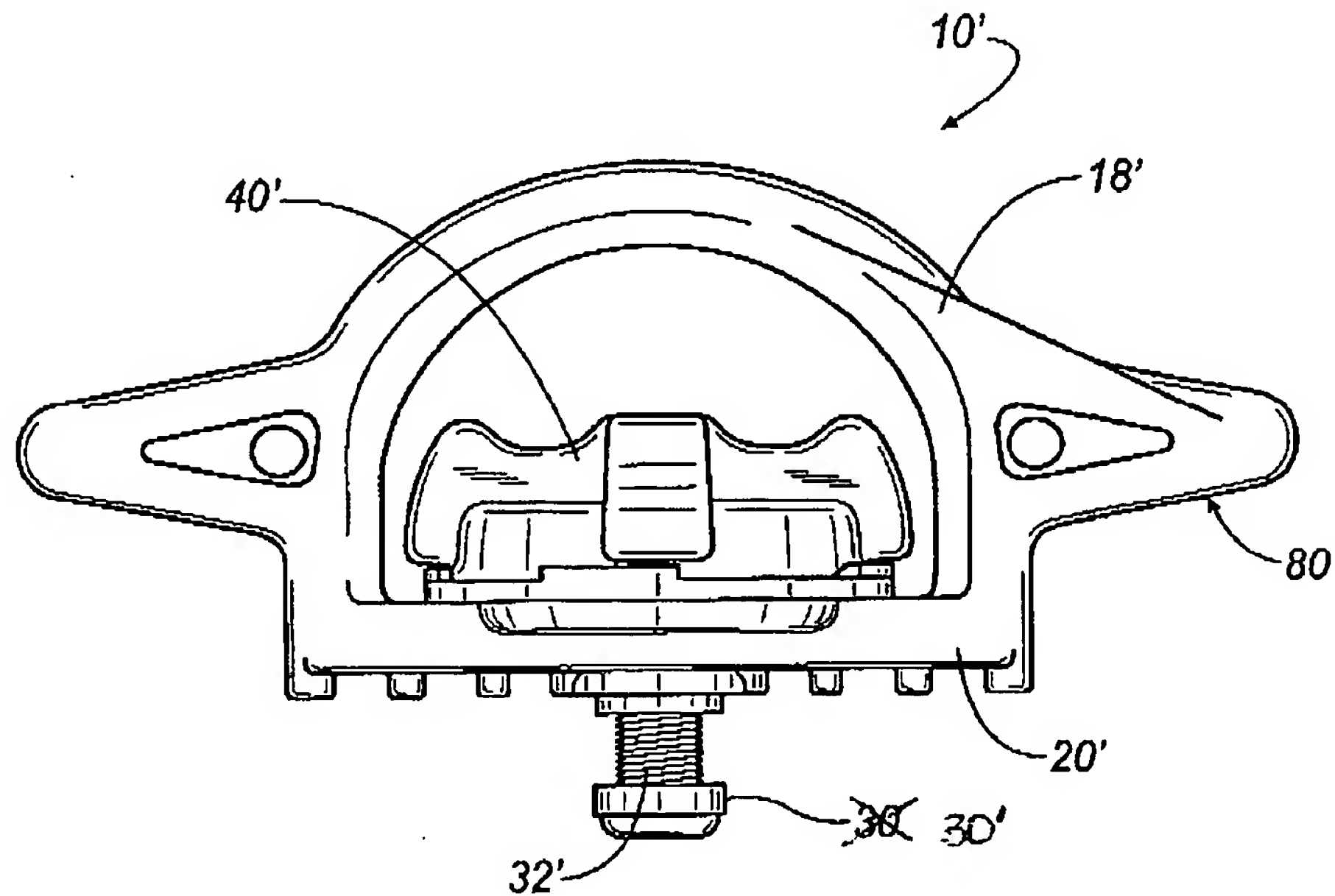


FIG. 9

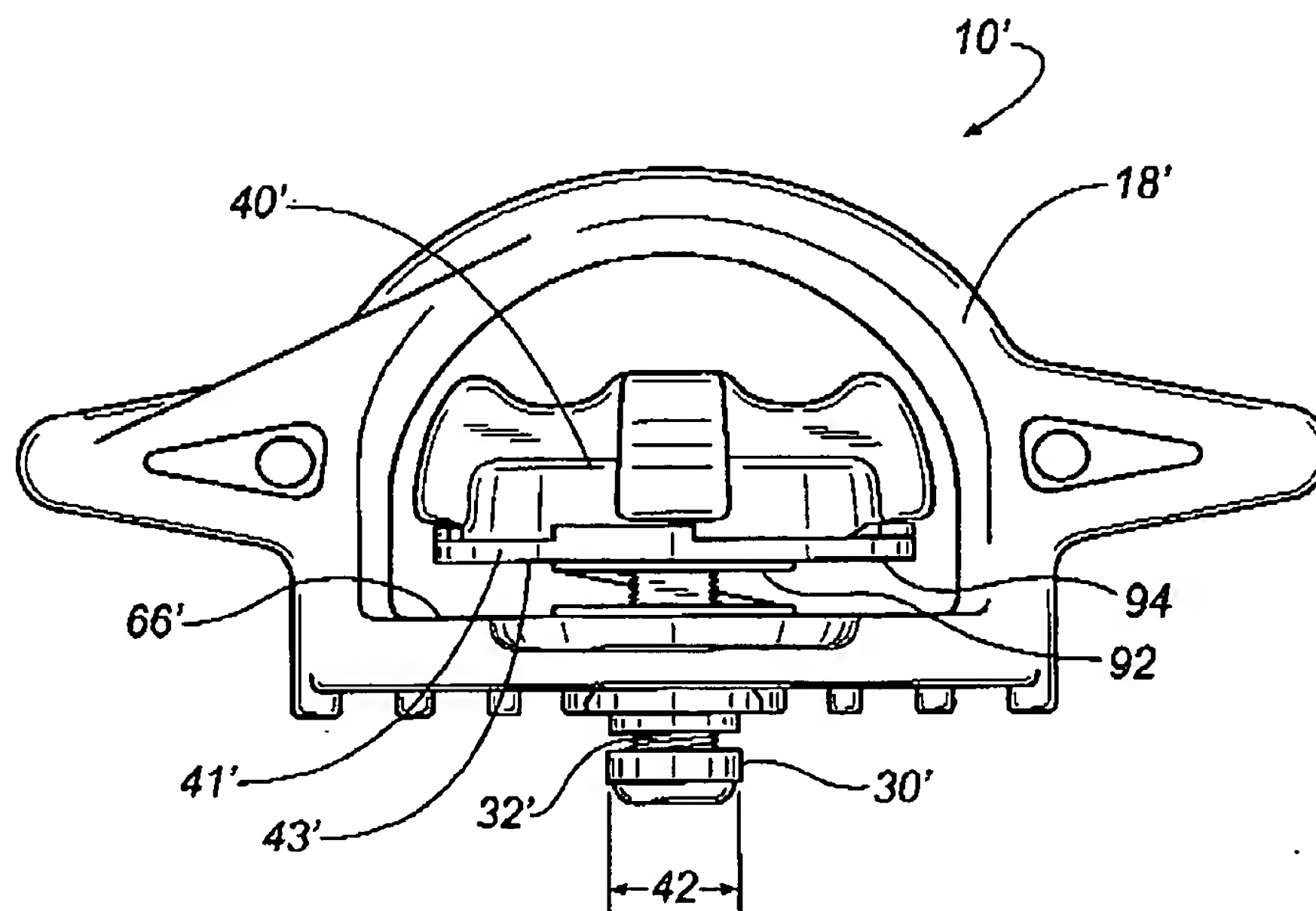


FIG. 10

First Named Inventor: Michael P. Cunningham, et al.  
Title: SECUREMENT MECHANISM INCLUDING TOP LOADING TIE  
DOWN CLEAT ASSEMBLY AND LOCKING MEMBER

Atty. Docket No.: 65042-0443  
Express Mail No.: EV 223961700 US

11/14

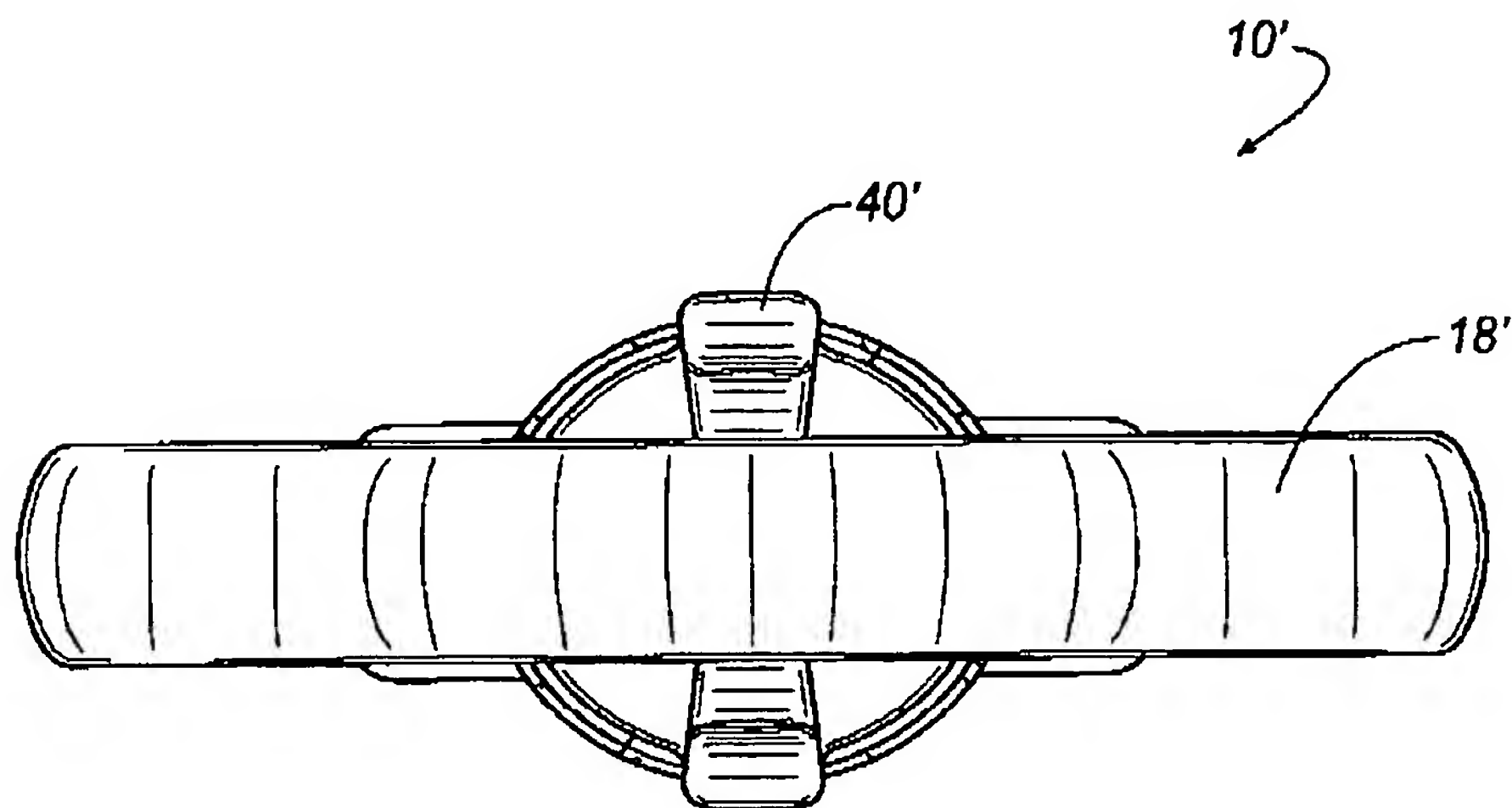


FIG. 11

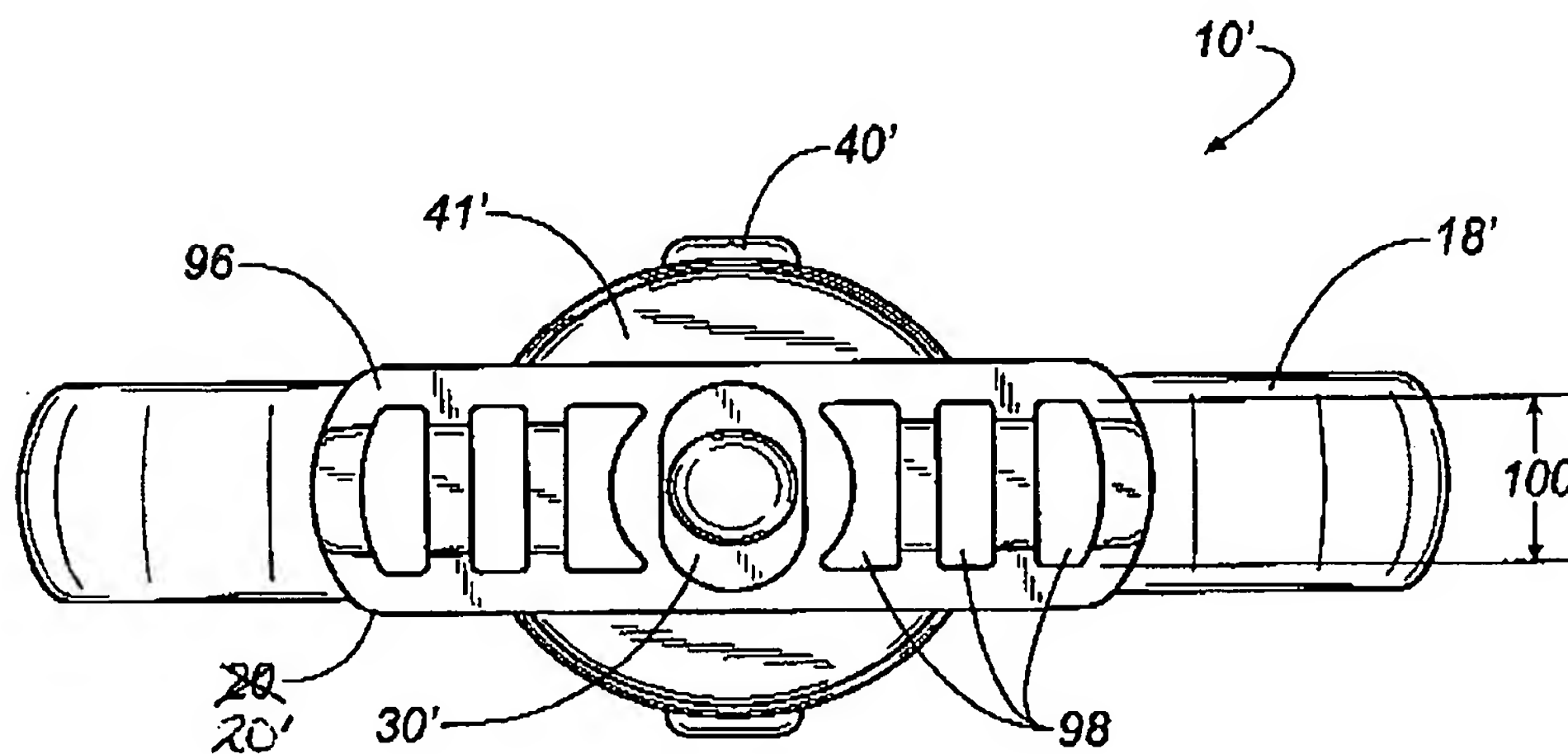


FIG. 12



First Named Inventor: Michael P. Cunningham, et al.  
Title: SECUREMENT MECHANISM INCLUDING TOP LOADING TIE  
DOWN CLEAT ASSEMBLY AND LOCKING MEMBER

Atty. Docket No.: 65042-0443  
Express Mail No.: EV 223961700 US

12/14

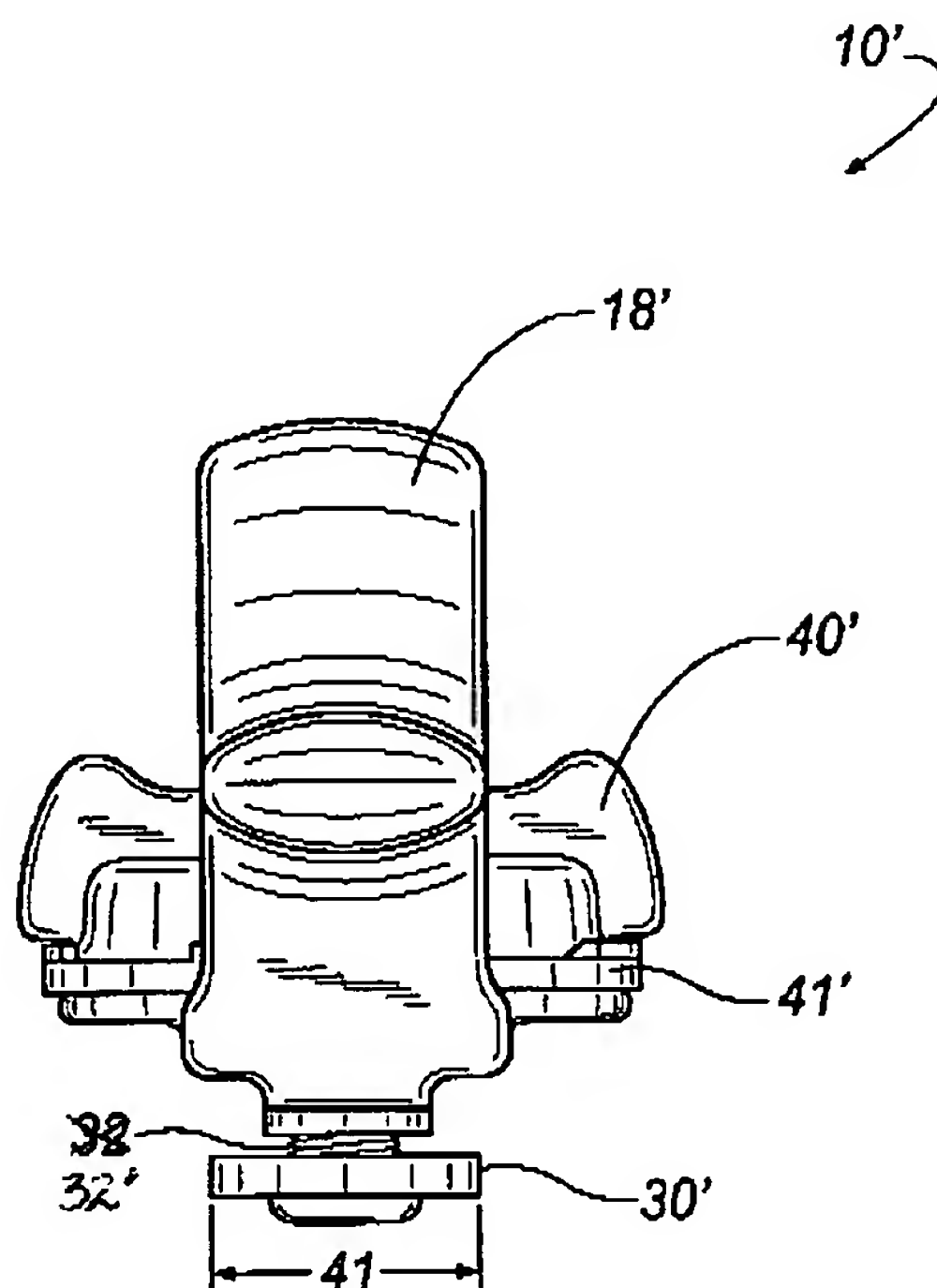


FIG. 13

First Named Inventor: Michael P. Cunningham, et al.  
 Title: SECUREMENT MECHANISM INCLUDING TOP LOADING TIE  
 DOWN CLEAT ASSEMBLY AND LOCKING MEMBER

Atty. Docket No.: 65042-0443  
 Express Mail No.: EV 223961700 US

13/14

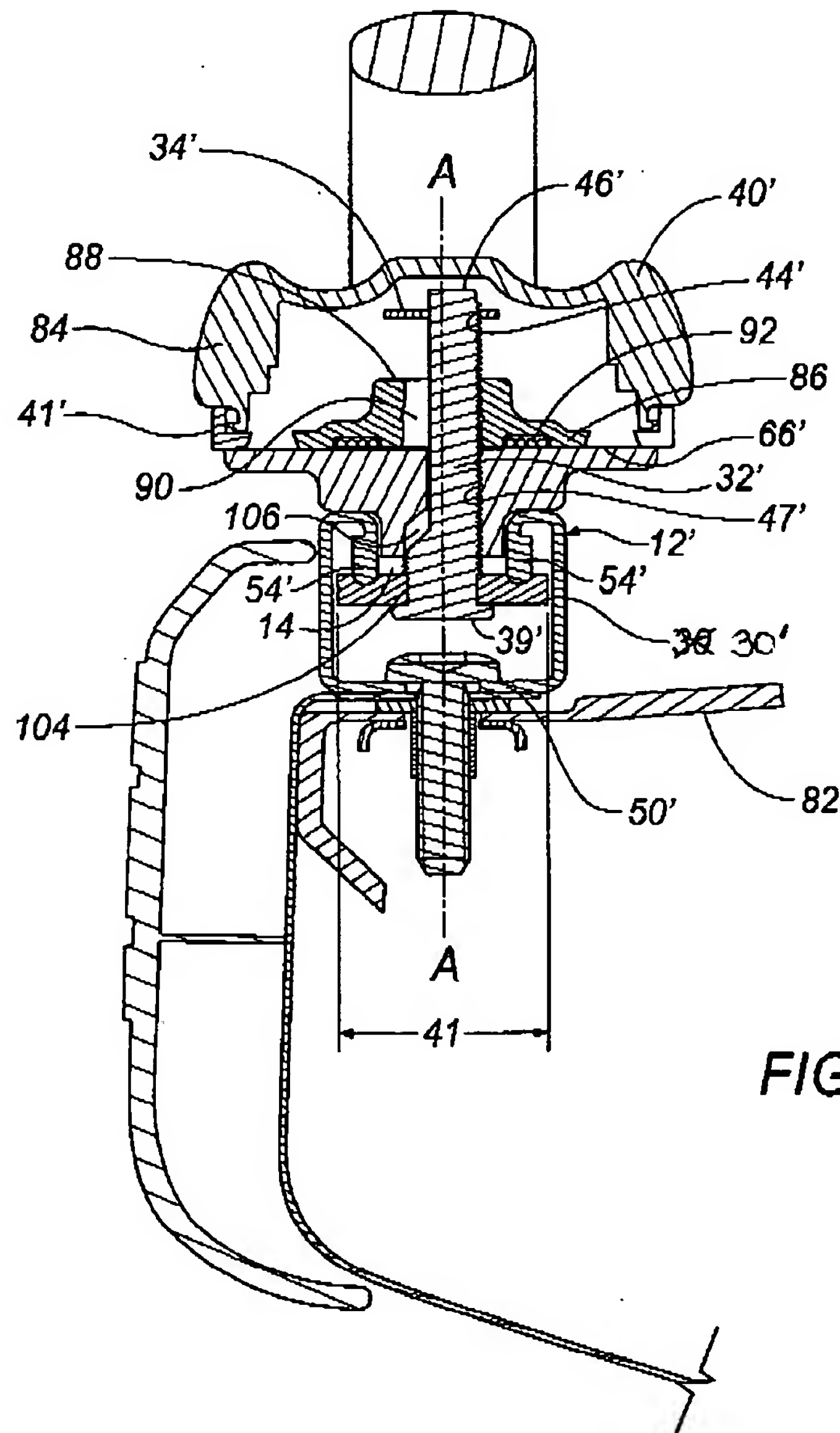


FIG. 14

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

☐ **BLACK BORDERS**

☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**

☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**

☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**

☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**

☒ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**

☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**

☐ **OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**